

CATS Newsletter

The Capital Area
Timex/Sinclair Users
Group



Vol. 13 No. 3 - 4
July - August 1995

The Third North American QL Show

(From Ruth Fegley's perspective)

For me, the most important part of any gathering of Sinclair enthusiasts is the meeting of friends both old and new. The recent QL show in Oak Ridge was another example of this. Although I dispute Mark's contention that I promised to write an article for him, here are a few jottings relative to my participation in it.

The QL Show, itself, was just the one day - Saturday, June 10th. However, many came a day or two ahead of time, so there was plenty of time to "catch up" and/or to initiate contact with the Sinclair faithful followers. Early arrivals included Canadian Hugh Howie (with his life-long friend Mary, from Scotland, who was fun to get to know); CATS' members March and Madeline Renick (now living in Florida), Dorothy and Barry Washington, Herb Schaaf, and yours truly; convener Bob Dyl, and the Mel LaVerne host family - to name just a few. Hopefully, Herb's more inclusive list of attendees and his comments re: the affair will appear in another article. (I must confess that the addition of so many women was a pleasant surprise for me, so I took advantage of the opportunity to talk to them about other than QL centered chat!)

After detouring to have my rear-view mirror reglued onto my car's windshield (a learning experience for me!) I made it fairly early to Saturday's main event held in a nearby church hall. Whereas most folks soon clustered around the tables of the dealers from U.K., Germany, etc. (also hopefully enumerated by others), I stuck pretty close to the Mechanical Affinity setup. While there, after a talk session with myself as to why I should or should not buy one, I finally bought a Gold Card. (I'm always "bringing up the rear" as opposed to being "on the cutting edge" is concerned!) I also bought the latest version of DB Easy from Bill Cable. No other purchase is newsworthy.

During the course of the day there was plenty of time to chat with people like John Donaldson from CATUG, the Chicago group; Al Boehm from NESQLUG, the group in New England; Tim Swenson, the CATS member transplanted to Dayton; Tony Brooks, another former member of CATS now in Georgia; and Harry Spencer, who joined CATS after attending our Fest held several years ago.

The camaraderie at every Sinclair affair is sincere and contagious. For example, my recently purchased extra RAM for the Z88 was cheerfully installed for me by a new friend from California. (Shame on me for not remembering his name.) Saturday night found some 30 or 40 of us dining at a most attractive restaurant - a pleasant and relaxing way to wind up the "official" part of the affair. Then back to the motel for more visiting and, for me, a session with Paul who created a disk to put XCHANGE on my recently purchased Miracle Systems Hard Drive. Several groups formed for Sunday morning breakfast. Most ..

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A Word from the Editor:

August will be a Paste-up Month, but I won't be there. Bring the articles you'd like to see in the newsletter and I'll pick them up from one of the attendees afterward.

The BBS has Moved!

SAILOR is the new home of the CATS BBS. CATS has established an E-Mail account that will be accessible via a local call to all Maryland CATS'ers, and, of course, able to receive messages from anywhere on the planet via Internet.

Our Internet address is:

mf0002@epfl2.epflbalto.org

You Can Reach Us!

CATS members can reach the world for a local call! see below:

Sailor Telecommunication Network

Backbone sites	
Public Phone number	OPAC access thru Sailor?
Anne Arundel County Public Library (410) 222-7100	Opac being installed
Enoch Pratt Free Library (410) 605-0500	YES
Baltimore County Public Library (410) 494-1199	YES
Carroll County Public Library (410) 848-1230	YES
Cecil County Public Library (410) 392-0909	in progress
Frederick County Public Library connection in progress	
Frostburg State University connection in progress	
Harford County Public Library (410) 638-5669	YES
Howard County Public Library (410) 730-0707	YES
Montgomery County Public Library (301) 424-4200	YES
Prince George's County Memorial Library (301) 925-2400	YES
Southern Maryland Regional Library connection in progress	
Talbot County Free Library connection in progress	
Washington County Free Library connection in progress	
Wicomico n County Free Library connection in progress	

Sailor operations at the Enoch Pratt Free Library

The Help Desk is available weekdays 8:30 - 5:00. Plans for expanding hours to evenings and weekends are being made. If state funding succeeds, hours will be expanded in the summer. Currently there are 2 1/2 FTE assigned to the desk, including the manager position funded by LSCA. Sailor workstation is operated at Pratt, managed by systems staff there. Full time Sailor programmer will be on board in April. Sailor Network Technician to be hired early 1995 with LSCA funds.

Doing WITHOUT Exchange—the UNIX connection.

by
Mark Fisher

The State E-Mail system is a remarkable assembly, allowing more or less full screen editing over a networked 2400 baud line, potentially stretching from any corner of the state. But I've found a few gaps in its coverage. Some of those gaps are clearly stated, and were made part of the choice CATS made when it signed up for an E-Mail only account. (This primarily is the lack of ability to do FTP, and a mere one megabyte of storage.) Some gaps are equally intentional, but not advertised. (I don't remember being told we wouldn't be able to access the TIPS section of the board, even though it appears on the menu.) The last sort of gaps are the bits that just don't seem to work, such as...

There is a nominal ability to up and down load messages. This is available via the <T>ransfer function. I've never been able to make it work, though I've been assured by the "helpdesk" that it SHOULD. When using the <K>ermit option, it will, at the appropriate time, direct you to "start upload on your side now..." and then hang, responding to nothing, and requiring a hangup from your end to start over. Mega annoying.

Out of the Shell...

It is possible to work around this problem. <T>ransfer the file to the <U>nix shell system. You will be sending the file to a subdirectory - use /u3/u/mf0002 as the path. One of the facilities that has not been crippled is the ability to exit to the OS shell - UNIX, in this case. You will find this ability in the <A>pplications menu, then choose the <O>S Shell. You will be deposited on a quiet corner of the Pratt empire, with nothing but a "\$:" for company. You are now in UNIX. (Actually, you always were, from the time you first dialed your SAILOR access.) To get back to your familiar Exchange Shell, type "exit."

Where Am I?

PWD

That "\$:" isn't very helpful. In navigating the

Pratt maze, it is easy to get lost. "pwd" is your sign post to find your way, and remember where interesting resources are. Type "pwd" to verify the subdirectory you've been set down in. (Sometimes I've been set down in /bin/sh for some reason.) If you aren't where you want to be, use "cd /u3/u/mf0002" to switch to the CATS home directory.

What do I do next? **MAN**

There are some powerful assistants hiding behind that "\$:" It's a strange and alien territory, but there is help available. Your first impulse might be to type "HELP," but that would be a mistake. Since it's UNIX, you type "man" instead (for MANual). "man" is a powerful help system, with search, indexing, and association abilities to find you the help you need.

By the way, most of UNIX is case sensitive. If you see a file named "checks" you will not be able to access it by calling it "Checks".

What is in here? **LS**

To see what's in the directory where you've been deposited, you might type DIR. That would be a mistake. DIR is a MS-DOS command. (In fact, some UNIX venues have implemented "dir" as a UNIX command.) the correct UNIX way to see a directory of your current directory is to type "ls" (for LiSt). If you want to see all the abilities of this command, try: "man ls". Type "ls -la" to LiSt the current directory, and verify that the file you transferred is present.

Oops, it isn't there: **LIST**

If the file isn't there, it will have been saved to some other subdirectory on the Pratt system. You can then type "find . -name mf0002 -print" to get a list of all files saved as our files, in all directories.

Get Me That File: **KERMIT**

No matter where you are, type "kermit". This isn't just a file transfer protocol, it's a complete remote file server, letting you do many things besides the bread and butter file transfers. By typing "kermit", you've earned a new cursor. This is a reflection of the fact that you're inside kermit now. "Help" now works as a command, and will get you a list of available options. You can ask for further elaboration on any of them with "Help word" The quick version is: To upload a file to Pratt, type "receive". To beam a copy back to yourself, type "send" and your

file's name. And WAIT. Kermit is slow, and the time sharing inherent in a statewide network means downloads beyond 8000 bytes are often not completed.

The ability to use UNIX opens broad new horizons to us. I'll cover more of those in future issues.

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then departed the motel before Check-Out time.

All spoke of being glad that they had decided to attend this 3rd Annual North American QL Show. I, for one, hope there are many more.

Post Script: My return home was not the leisurely, tourist attraction filled one I had planned. Just after crossing the Virginia line I realized that my air conditioner wasn't working, so I checked into a motel in Marion. Without going into much detail, I ended up staying until Tuesday afternoon when my car was delivered to the motel after a new compressor had been installed. (After learning that everything under the hood is driven by one belt and that to continue to drive home I ran the risk of being completely immobilized should it be "chewed: through, I really had no choice but to have the work done. I also realized that driving over 300 miles in a stifling hot car was not exactly what my doctor would recommend!)

Eventually, I realized how lucky I had been. I was in a great motel and spent Sunday afternoon in its large pool; the Olds dealer was only a short distance down the road and the Service Manager went out of his way to help despite a jammed work roster. Furthermore, when I got back to my regular mechanic I learned that I had paid no more than he would have charged, and of course the warranty will be honored by any GM dealer. More proof that the Lord takes care of Fools and children, and I haven't been a child in a long time! The end of my saga.

Ed note: Thanks Ruth, for following up on my nagging! As you can see, not everyone did! Readers— you know who you are!

A Visit to QBox:

There's a new (to me, at least) BBS out there: QBOX, at ???-???. The following is a listing of files available for download. (Surely some

helpful CATS'er will leave a message giving us its phone number.)

CATS group now has a large number of ZIPPed files picked up from QBOX at the IQLR get-together in Tennessee.

Files in Area 1 - QL Utilities

Goodies_zip 27776 19/10/94 some misc. files from Jonathan Hudson, author of QeM, QTPI, atp
Histdv_zip 22528 19/10/94 History Device - similar to TK2 alt/enter but much better, recalls multiple lines, uses cursor keys to scroll through past commands
Nasta_zip 5248 19/10/94 One persons work on an improved QL
QIDE_ZIP 23921 19/10/94 Updated information on a P.D. IDE Hard Drive for the QL
View_Disk_GC 2304 19/10/94 Disk Utility from Simon Goodwin's article in vol. 2 issue 10 of QL World, will test disks for bad sectors, can handle the higher density disks that the Gold Card supports
IMG_zip 27192 19/10/94 converts Atari TOS *.IMG files to QDESIGN _S -CR, _PGN or _CUT file formats, requires QMENU. -German docs-
drvutil_zip 7668 19/10/94 Hard drive utilities (DRVCHK & DRVLINK) by Tony Tebby. Read the 'readme.txt' file!!
dhztools_zip 3243 19/10/94 a collection of handy toolkit extensions by Carlo Delhez
Qed_zip 21153 19/10/94 very good & fast general editor - used here on QBox
QSI_zip 11284 19/10/94 QL Speed Index-use to find your system speed compared to std QL, Gold Card QL & QXL.
Vers_zip 12488 19/10/94 Version program from Johnathon Hudson reads config blocks - untested!
revivehd_zip 26496 19/10/94 Simon Goodwin's program modified for HD disks & compiled by S.G.
whatcpul4_zip 10112 16/12/94 Dave Walker's program to determine which member of the 68000 family you have, new version - detects Super Gold Card
meron106_zip 3287 19/10/94 MiniCron 1.06, a background job that can run other executable programs at a specified time
pagepr_zip 8194 19/10/94 Simon Goodwin's PagePrint program from QL World, modified to use US letter paper, original SuperBASIC plus a QLib compiled version
demonscave_zip 4956 19/10/94 implements MAC type alias on QL by Oliver Fink. requires PE
direc_zip 1694 19/10/94 simple basic program to copy files including subdirectories by Traven McIntock
ptf_zip 1380 19/10/94 redirects an open call from a serial or parallel port to ram1_
PbII_arc 6197 19/10/94 Phone Book II: Written in SuperBasic. Keep track of phone numbers
qlib336m_zip 10178 19/10/94 modified QLiberator runtimes v3.36 - fixes ERNUM bug - by T. Godefroy
Search221_zip 26815 19/10/94 utility to find a filename on a hard disk (or floppy) even if you don't know the full name.
LDesDemo_zip 319389 19/10/94 Line Design demo, everything works but the Line Design logo will be printed on all printouts
CPUTK011_ZIP 3004 19/10/94 Toolkit extensions to SuperBASIC to determine CPU type and clock speed of SGC
dqlerk_zip 183008 19/10/94 Demo version of QLerk from Wood and Wind Computing.. See IQLR review
mail4.0_zip 58200 21/03/95 Phil Barry's latest updates to the Maillist program for Psion's Archive
TI99-QL_zip 205298 25/10/94 TI-99 Graphics conversion utilities for the QL.
diskutil_zip 21035 01/11/94 general utilities for managing floppy diskettes. Handles all QL types - DD, HD, ED. Needs TK2. Best on Gold Card & Super Gold Card. Not for QXL.
xchange.3901I_zip 201026 01/11/94 Xchange v3.901I- Modified by Erling Jacobsen. Runs under PE, but not reqd. Many bugs fixed. Can use extended resolutions on QXL, SMSQ/E systems and be moved. Multiple copies can run. Uses standard QJump Config. QL users turn border off.
sethead_zip 2879 15/11/94 Program to set the executable flag and dataspace in a program. (J Hudson)
xch390I_zip 152576 18/11/94 Xchange v3.90J - now contains 50 printer translates (Erling Jacobsen)
WALLPAPR_ZIP 208213 22/11/94 Creates beautiful wallpaper on QL, QXL. (C Delhez)
414Ri_zip 312222 23/11/94 C68 'C' Compiler v4.14 runtime disk 1 (Dave Walker)
414R2_zip 264927 23/11/94 C68 'C' Compiler v4.14 runtime disk 2 (Dave Walker)
414D1_zip 223733 23/11/94 C68 'C' Compiler v4.14 documentation disk 1 (Dave Walker)
414D2_zip 138744 23/11/94 C68 'C' Compiler v4.14 documentation disk 2 (Dave Walker)
414p1_zip 180053 09/12/94 patch for C68 v4.14, fixes a few bugs (Dave Walker)
ptr304_zip 172340 09/12/94 QPTR Companions Disk for C68 Release 3, requires C68 4.10 or later (Dave Walker)
index11b_zip 20359 29/11/94 Small beta of an indexing program (Lester Wareham), now with case sensitive and insensitive matching.
ENGIF16_zip 4224 09/12/94 Utility to convert QDOS screens to GIF format, v0.16. (Carlo Delhez)
UNGIF91_zip 108774 16/12/94 UNGIF v0.91 (Carlo Delhez)
NorBack323_zip 87407 17/12/94 Backup (PE) For those without Menu_rext (A.Borretzen & P.Monstad)
aplexe_zip 85941 17/05/95 APL programming language executables
aplsre_zip 78583 17/05/95 APL programming language source files
drivers_zip 9585 10/01/95 Latest versions of PTH, SUB and REDIR drivers, now SMS compatible
NorBack401_zip 87053 14/01/95 Backup (PE) for those with Menu_rext (A.Borretzen & P.Monstad)
Smash11_zip 20899 14/02/95 A self-extracting job-

compressor for QDOS v0.11 (Carlo Delhez)
 CSM117_zip 33404 16/05/95 Client-Server
 Manager v1.17 - A Thing for easy inter-job
 communication (J Hudson)
 JPEG_ZIP 90531 07/03/95 The *JPG to *.GIF
 converter from QITALY (E. Ikemann)
 maxil6.zip 44416 09/03/95 An MSDOS utility for
 QXL owners to allow QXL to read 5.25" 720K
 disks. (D Donahue)
 dme3_zoo 129329 21/04/95 The Amiga's DME
 editor ported to QDOS by Dirk Steinkopf.
 SJPD495_ZIP 102272 26/04/95 S.J.P.D. SOFTWARE
 Catalogue April 1995.

Files in Area 2 - Communications

Ansistrip_zip 2560 19/10/94 A small utility to
 remove ANSI codes and unwanted CR's from log
 files. Qliberated program, needs Qlib runtimes and
 TK2.
 Qem040_zip 41600 19/10/94 QeM version 4.0 by
 Jonathan Hudson
 Qemdoc_zip 30720 19/10/94 detailed docs for
 QeM
 qlTRM232_zip 27983 19/10/94 Jan Bredenbeck's
 QLTerm v2.32
 QEM424_zip 37238 19/10/94 upgrades QeM to
 v4.24.
 QFAX200b_zip 205967 19/10/94 QFAX v2.00 files
 to complete the package, not needed if you have an
 older version of fax unless you want a new cview.
 QLReader0131_zip 143039 12/02/95 QL BBS Message
 Reader - Freeware Offline message reader for
 different BBS formats. Supports Compuserve
 (native), QBOX and INTERNET/USENET formats
 (with included filters). Includes sorting and tree
 navigation features. Updated.
 PCL2G3_zip 22872 19/10/94 Beta release.
 Converts HP output files to fax form for pretty faxes.
 PCL2G303_zip 23086 08/11/94 v0.03 of PCL2G3
 which converts HP PCL files to G3 or PBM format.
 QEM425_zip 38092 08/11/94 v4.25 of QeM, non-
 pointer Terminal Emulator, update for VT100
 keypad extras.
 QLNewsgroup_txt 33077 05/12/94 Captured text from
 a Usenet newsgroup on Sin
 clair computers, interesting reading, captured and
 uploaded by Chris Fowler.
 lfaxV050_zip 104072 07/12/94 LFAX v0.50 (Main
 Version Upgrade) - class 1 Fax transport (L
 Warcham)
 XPR320_zip 100826 28/12/94 XPR Libraries v3.20.
 Replaces all previous releases. (J Hudson)
 QTPI145_zip 94787 28/12/94 QTPI v1.45, full
 package, replaces all previous releases. (J Hudson)
 QFAX250a_zip 254246 28/12/94 QFAX v2.50,
 replaces QFAX200a, and all QFAX updates since. (J
 Hudson)
 QTPI150_zip 59162 02/03/95 Now supports script
 files, requires XPR v3.4 below. (J Hudson)
 XPR340_zip 88253 02/03/95 XPR libraries for
 QTPI 1.50 and above. (J Hudson)

LFAX006b_zip 61882 04/04/95 Interim LFAX
 upgrade (L Warcham)
 YMQES_zip 16614 21/04/95 Yet More QTPI
 Example Scripts (J Hudson)
 smbx102_zip 144431 12/05/95 Simple Mailbox -
 provides QDOS with simple messaging and file-
 transfer capabilities for incoming data calls. (D
 Woodman)
 QTPI153E_zip 57562 16/05/95 QTPI Terminal
 Emulator v1.53 Executables (J Hudson)
 QTPI153D_zip 70479 16/05/95 full QTPI
 documentation (J Hudson)
 Hdr_restore_bas 1920 19/10/94 this program restores
 the header on the unzip30 program here in this
 library
 Unzip30_hdr 60711 19/10/94 Unzip version 3.0, use
 hdr_restore_bas above to restore the header
 LHq_zip 34345 19/10/94 another type of archiver
 for the QL, has both compress & uncompress
 options in one program
 HAR_zip 59663 19/10/94 still another type of
 archiver, compresses & uncompresses
 Unarc_zip 49824 19/10/94 arc & unarc utilities for
 the QL, compress & uncompress
 Unzip096_zip 8969 19/10/94 older version of unzip
 sometimes needed for old zip's, use unzip 3 to
 extract files
 Zip30_zip 43904 19/10/94 Zip version 3.0 part of
 package including ZipUtil and UnZip...Get all 3,
 includes docs on using zip/unzip
 Ziputi30_zip 90752 19/10/94 Zip Utilities version
 3.0 These are the extr
 a files for Zip/UnZip such as ZipIn
 zip501_zip 174508 07/11/94 version 5.01 of the zip
 utilities
 unzip501_zip 96140 07/11/94 version 5.01 of the
 unzip utilities
 pak251.exe 103424 16/11/94 A dos
 archiver/zipper/unzipper, etc. in a self extracting file.
 acp263_zip 32461 10/01/95 Archivers Control
 Panel v2.3, now accepts archive filename in
 command line, useful with FileInfo (Thierry
 Godefroy)
 zoo_zip 275209 21/04/95 The zoo
 archiver/unarchiver ported to QDOS

List continued next issue:

Files in Area 4 - Pointer Stuff

Files in Area 5 - Emulators

Files in Area 6 - Spectrum/2068 Files

Files in Area 8 - General Files

Files in Area 9 - QL Hacker's Journal

THE CAPITAL AREA TIMEX/

SINCLAIR USERS GROUP is a not-for-profit group serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

Officers:

Chairman	Monthly position
Vice-Chairman	Monthly position
Recording Secretary	Monthly position
Corresponding Secretary	Joe Miller
Treasurer	Barry Washington
Newsletter Editor	Mark Fisher
Voice, FAX, and DATA for articles:	(301) 589-7407

Meetings:

Monthly meetings are held from 12:00 M to 4:30 PM on the second Saturday of each month at the New Carrollton Library.

Membership:

User Group memberships cost \$10.00 per year, are good for 12 months and include all privileges (access to software libraries, group buys, etc.).

Mail dues to:

LeBaron (Barry) Washington
7044 Cindy Lane
Annandale VA 22003

Networks

QBox BBS - Let us know the number!

Timex SIG on CompuServe: Wednesday night 10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (GO CLUB)

CATS on Internet:

mf0002@epfl2.epflbalto.org

CATS Newsletter
7044 Cindy Lane
Annandale VA 22003

FIRST CLASS MAIL



The next two meetings of CATS will be held on: August 12

(Paste up for September - October)

and ...

September 9, 1995

12:00 M Hardware workshop
2:00 PM General meeting

At: New Carrollton Public Library